

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday 6/11/18

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Pilieri, President
Joseph Knowles, Vice President
Ed Kisselback, Secretary
Jesse Sloane, Member
Ed Tokmajian, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo
Ron Gans, Township Engineer
Joseph Pizzo, Solicitor
Debora McBreen, Council Clerk
Cindy Terlecki, Recording Secretary

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council President Pilieri opened the meeting with a moment of silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mayor DiGirolamo has a scholarship foundation and each year he presents scholarships to worthy students going on to college, the following are recipients of this year's Scholarship:

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| 1. Cecilia M. Barreca | Villa Joseph Marie High School |
| 2. Kady Dennis | Bensalem High School |
| 3. Jonathan M. Everly | Bucks County Technical School |
| 4. Michaela Graf | St. Hubert's Catholic High School |
| 5. Amber Linder | St. Hubert's Catholic High School |
| 6. Jolie Nerosa | Conwell-Egan Catholic High School |
| 7. Amy Szwajkowski | Archbishop Ryan Catholic High School |

The **Mayor** thanked everyone for their hard work, Cecilia Barreca and Amber Linder were unable to attend the presentation.

Tom Vasek, President of the Bensalem Lions Club, also made a presentation of Lions Scholarship Awards to the following recipients:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Jonathan M. Everly | Bucks County Technical School |
| 2. Michaela Graf | St. Hubert's Catholic High School |
| 3. Gavin Hinshaw | Bensalem High School |
| 4. Dalena Nguyen | Bensalem High School |
| 5. Ezinwa Osuoha | Bensalem High School |

Vasek presented the scholarships and Ally Hutchinson was added to the list of recipients, Dalena Nguyen was not in attendance.

Pilieri asked **Pizzo** if there were any changes to the agenda and **Pizzo** noted that #4 on the agenda is being tabled until the 8/27/18 Council meeting. **Kisselback** motioned to table and **Tokmajian** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Pizzo said #5 on the agenda is also being tabled until the Council Meeting of 7/9/18, **Tokmajian** motioned to table and **Sloane** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Pizzo added #8 and said the attorney for the applicant contacted him and asked for this to be tabled until the 7/9/18 Council Meeting, **Knowles** motioned to table and **Tokmajian** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Pizzo also added #10 stating the applicant is waiting for revised plans and asked this to be tabled until the Council Meeting of 7/9/18, **Tokmajian** motioned to table and **Sloane** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pilieri asked if anyone from the audience wanted to speak on any agenda items, no one came forward and public comment was closed.

3. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

Kisselback motioned to approve the minutes of 5/14/18 as presented, **Tokmajian** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

4. CONSIDERATION & PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE:

An ordinance amending Part II Chapter 232 of the Township’s Code Zoning, to add a new overlay zoning district in Article VI, known as Division 7: Street Road Corridor Town Center Overlay District and to amend the Zoning Map.

Tabled until 8/27/18 Council Meeting

5. CONSIDERATION & PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE:

An ordinance amending the Township’s Zoning Ordinance Part II Chapter 232 of the Township’s Code Zoning, to amend Article II, Section 232-31 to amend the Township Zoning Map to rezone and reclassify Bucks County Tax Map Parcel Numbers 2-60-15 and 2-30-115, Katherine Drexel property from IN-Institutional to R2 – Residential; to repeal all inconsistent ordinances and to establish an effective date.

Tabled until the 7/9/18 Council Meeting

6. CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE

Consideration and public hearing on an ordinance amending the Township’s Zoning Ordinance of December 6, 1954 as amended, Chapter 232-31 of the Township’s Code to amend Article II Section 232-3, to amend the Zoning Map and the Zoning Classification for Tax Map Parcel 02-036-238, **Chaman Popli** on Behalf of Knights Road Real Estate, LLC from BP Business Professional district to GC General Commercial district; to repeal all inconsistent ordinances; and to establish an effective date therefor. **Popli** 2752 Knights Road spoke on this and **Pilieri** asked if this was the same property that was turned down for a smoke shop and there is not enough parking, what has changed? **Popli** said there are 15 parking spaces. **Pizzo** said the notices are in order but he did not receive a list of the addresses that the notices were mailed to. **Kisselback** said the area in question is a high accident area and a mini mart which is what is proposed, is GC-General Commercial, and that would not be good zoning for that area. **Popli** said a mini mart would be very small, and have a low traffic impact. **Knowles** said there is already a mini mart around the corner, how will this new mini mart survive? **Maulik Shah**, who spoke on this said they would expect foot traffic from the apartments. **Knowles** said that **Popli** should have thought about this before he bought the property, and **Popli** said he bought the property before he was turned down for a smoke shop. **Gans** said the surrounding properties are a doctor’s office, and insurance office, **Sloane** added it was turned down by Planning. **Pizzo** asked what relation is **Shah** to **Popli** and **Shah** said he works for **Popli**. At this point, **Pilieri** asked if anyone from the audience wanted to speak on this and Doctor **Sandhu** who has an office next to the proposed property, said this a very unreasonable request. The property is very small and parking is tight and it is very hard to make a left hand turn from the property. No one else from the audience came forward and public comment was closed. **Sloane** said the intersection is very dangerous and this would not be the best location for a mini mart. **Kisselback** motioned to deny this and **Tokmajian** seconded, denied 5-0.

7. CONSIDERATION & PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE:

Pizzo spoke on this proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 225 Vehicles and Traffic Article II Traffic Regulations to install a 4- way stop sign at High and Brown Avenue. A traffic study was done due to the amount of complaints received. **Sloane** asked when the ordinances on the website would be updated. The **Mayor** said he would get an answer to that question. **Pilieri** asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak on this and **Jimmy Lamb** from 3341 Sarmiento Drive asked if Google Maps could be brought up on the screen in Council Chambers to show the location. **Pilieri** said not at this time and he would look into it. Council also requested that in the future, map be provided. **Tokmajian** motioned to approve and **Knowles** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

8. CONSIDERATION & PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Applicant: | Republic First Bank d/b/a/ Republic Bank |
| Location: | 2941 Mechanicsville Road |
| From Zoning Classification: | R-2 Residential |
| To Zoning Classification: | GC- General Commercial |
| Tax Parcel: | 2-37-29 |

Tabled until 7/9/18

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION:

Pizzo spoke on this proposed resolution granting authorization for the **Mayor** to submit an application to execute agreements for the redevelopment assistance capital program (RACP). The Township was awarded a grant by the Commonwealth of PA for one million for Livengrin. The Township needs to execute documents to receive the grant, a resolution is needed for the **Mayor** to submit the documents. **Kisselback** asked if this is for the benefit of Livengrin and **Pizzo** said the Township has to apply on behalf of Livengrin. **Sloane** asked if this is specifically for Livengrin, **Pizzo** said it was and there are various documents that will need to be signed. **Sloane** then asked if Council could be informed of any applications for grants and **Pizzo** said they are public record. The **Mayor** said we are doing Livengrin a favor, there is a lot of work involved, **Pilieri** asked if this was only for Livengrin and the **Mayor** said yes. **Tokmajian** asked if this was limited to one million and **Pizzo** said yes. **Kisselback** motioned to approve and **Knowles** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

10. CONSIDERATION OF LOT LINE CHANGE:

Applicant: Carl Schneider
Site Information: 968 & 962 Bristol Pike
Proposed Use: Commercial
Zoning Classification: GC General Commercial
Tax Parcel: 2-29-112 and 2-29-113

Tabled until 7/9/18

11. CONSIDERATION OF MINOR LAND DEVELOPMENT:

Applicant: Millennium Properties & Investments, LLC
Location: 4851 Street Road
Proposed Use: Parking Lot
Zoning Classification: BP – Business Professional
Tax Parcel: 2-4-184-1

Pilieri asked if anyone was in the audience for the Millennium project and no one was present, and no one contacted the Township, **Kisselback** motioned to give the applicant a chance to come before Council 7/9/18 **Tokmajian** seconded, motion carried 5-0.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Barbara Zeidler - asked about the Mechanicsville and Byberry Road intersection, there was a deer crossing sign that was removed and would like it put back up, the **Mayor** said he would take care of it.

Joyce Hadley and **Peggy Dator** - spoke on 287G and wanted to publicly thank the **Mayor** for his decision and standing his ground and to not pursue this matter.

Jimmy Lamb – asked why the Township couldn't get the overhead screen on to show google maps. He also asked about **Fred Harran**, the Director of Public Safety's recent comments regarding student privacy and would like clarity on the subject. **Pilieri** called **Harran** up to the podium and **Harran** said it is something the police are working on to protect students in the event of a school shooting and he was not at liberty to discuss it at this time. **Sloane** said it is about security in the schools, protecting students' records. **Harran** said that law enforcement is looking at ways to better themselves and to bring about change to policies and laws that have been on the books for 50 years. **Knowles** said it is to have more access to student information. **Harran** said the Township has 14 schools and **Sloane** asked if **Harran** was pursuing this or was the **Mayor**. The **Mayor** responded that if we can better protect our kids that **Harran** should pursue it. **Pizzo** thanked **Peggy Dator**, President of the Human Relation Council and **Joyce Hadley**. **Tokmajian** asked if **Harran** has sat down with lawmakers and **Harran** said he has met with Fitzpatrick.

Bob Garton and **Steve Scrimcki** – said they have concerns about the recovery house in Nottingham being close to a park and school, **Pizzo** said the Federal Government mandates this, the Township has no control over it. The **Mayor** said he met with some residents this past week with the Solicitor, and he is getting a meeting together with **Senator Tomlinson**, **Representative Gene DiGirolamo** and **Congressman Fitzpatrick**.

Alice Shubert – said that children have to pass the house on their way to school and she asked if there would be a notice of the meeting and the **Mayor** said anyone who signed the petition would be notified and there would be flyers put out. **Tokmajian** asked if the meeting could be posted on Facebook and the **Mayor** said he wants to keep it in Nottingham. No one else from the audience came forward so public comment was closed.

Pilieri said there was an item that was walked in and needed to be heard by Council. The CDBG Block Grant which the **Mayor** said is HUD money the Township gets every year. **Sloane** mentioned the curb cut program which is part of the CDBG Grant he asked how much of the Township not ADA compliant, the **Mayor** said that he would find out. **Kisselback** motioned to amend the agenda and to approve the CDGB Block Grant and **Tokmajian** seconded, motion approved 5-0.

13. OTHER BUSINESS:

Pizzo – wanted to congratulate the Bensalem High School baseball team for their success.

Mayor- said Flag Day is June 15th and the Kiwanis have a program that they will provide a 4x4 foot flag and insert it in the ground 4 times a year for \$25 per year. He also wanted to congratulate the Bensalem High School baseball team and he also said the Parks and Rec Program starts on June 18th. **Pizzo** was asked about the ordinance to change the residency requirement for employees, it has been discussed and would include all employees.

Sloane – asked about recycling at the concerts and said the Fire Fighters Filed is not recycling. The **Mayor** said he would look into it. **Sloane** then asked about the Mayor's salary which was posted in the newspaper and the **Mayor** said Council voted on a 2%

yearly raise for the **Mayor**. **Sloane** said he would like an update on the ordinance and he also asked about quarterly reports on the budget, he also congratulated all the 2018 graduates.

Pileri – said that **John Chaykowski**, Finance Manager, was in the middle of the budget. **Sloane** said he would like two budget sessions and **Pileri** said he would look into it. **Knowles** said that Council has had executive sessions discussing this, the **Mayor** will check with **Chaykowski**.

Tokmajian – wants to see the financials and asked about a left hand turn signal at Galloway and Hulmeville coming from Celebrations toward the High School. He also said he did a ride along with the Police and he said they are constantly at risk, Bensalem Police are well prepared, the officers treat everyone with respect, he thanked **Harran** and Deputy Director **William McVey**. **Tokmajian** also wished the Bensalem High School Baseball team luck with their upcoming games and congratulated all the 2018 graduates.

Knowles – congratulated all the 2018 graduates and wished the Bensalem High School Baseball team good luck against LaSalle, and Happy Father's Day to all the dads.

Kisselback – congratulated all the 2018 graduates and wished the Bensalem High School Baseball team good luck against LaSalle, and Happy Father's Day to all the dads and said the Amphitheater is now open for concerts, and said good luck to the Phillies.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 6/25/18

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Terlecki